XX/XX/XX

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In your student’s chemistry classroom, we are introducing a new technology based on a program called Study Island, an online learning resource that will help students with North Carolina chemistry standards mastery. Because Study Island is web-based, students will be able to continue their learning outside of the classroom.

This technology is an important new step forward to help your student achieve mastery of the chemistry standards defined by North Carolina. The program will accomplish this by providing detailed instruction and assessment tools standard-by-standard, in a flexible and effective way for your student to access. Grading and feedback to specific standards assessment is real-time – so no waiting and immediate response to the students inquiry. Blue Ribbons are awarded to students as recognition as they master topics. There are also motivational games and exercises available as they complete mastery to further development their understanding of the content. If students’ initial assessments in a topic area are below acceptable, there are built-in remediation tools to support their practice to build them back up to an acceptable level of scoring performance with my assistance.

The entire Study Island system is designed with one goal in mind- to improve your student’s mastery of NC standards and quantitative performance on the end-of-course summative chemistry final exam. This system is completely aligned with our existing curriculum. It accomplishes this by providing the student more choices, more flexibility to learn that fits with their aptitude and learning style, with faster feedback and diagnostic corrective mechanisms to prioritize on detailed topics where reinforcement is most effective.

This tool has been used by students in over 20,000 schools in the US. There is a track record of improving content mastery of individual state standards and motivation to learn.

We will certainly assess the effectiveness of Study Island in our environment by holding ourselves accountable to measure and assess the performance improvement of your student, the impact on the individual student experience, and collective contribution to provide a positive classroom environment where students are motivated to inquire and learn. I would be disappointed if this technology did not play a role where individual students did not change their attitude towards science and their personal future opportunities.

My strategy to integrate Study Island into existing curriculum is straightforward because it targets the same NC standards. The major change is to provide more opportunity time for the student and me to focus on areas where they need support.

You will have real-time visibility into the system to monitor how your student is progressing with completing individual topics. The designed access and transparency is intended to support the student-teacher-caregiver partnership to help the student achieve higher level of performance. You will find detailed log-in instructions on my class Moodle Page. Students will have access 24/7 via their current Chromebook notepads.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding Study Island at any time.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Spickard